N.H. Room -- Lateral File

Folder: Smart, Pamela

Source: Union Leader

Item:

Date: 5/7/1991

Union Leader May 7, 1991

Smart Family, Emotional Pam Clash in Court

EXETER (AP) — Pamela Smart, convicted of plotting her husband's murder with her teenage lover, lost her "Ice Princess" demeanor yesterday when she was called a "cold-blooded murderer" by her father-in-law during additional sentencing.

In tears, the former high school instructor jumped to her feet and shouted, "Your honor, I can't handle this," and then what sounded like, "I don't have to listen to this any more."

To the consternation of the judge and bailiffs, her mother, Linda Wojas, then rose and demanded of William Smart, "Where does your vengeance end?"

Wojas left the courtroom as Judge Douglas Gray restored order, but returned to take the stand and accuse prosecutors of making deals to convict her daughter.

In March, when a Rockingham County jury convicted Smart, 23, Gray immediately imposed the mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole on one charge, accomplice to first-degree murder.

"Pam, I also pray and hope this is the absolute last time I or my family has to look at your face. You're a cold-blooded murderer . . ."

William Smart

The jury also convicted her of murder-conspiracy and witness tampering, and yesterday, Gray sentenced her to the maximum 7½ to 15 years and 3½ to 7

PAMELA SMART, Page 10

Union Leader May 7, 1991

AP Photo

PAMELA SMART, left, stands in Superior Court in Exeter yesterday as she is sentenced to another seven-and-a-half to 15 years for murder conspiracy and three-and-a-half to 7 years for witness tampering. At right is Smart's mother, Linda Wojas. The man in the middle is unidentified.

PAMELA SMART

(Continued From Page One)

years on those charges. The sentences will run concurrently, so they mean nothing unless she successfully appeals the murder-accomplice conviction.

Her lawyers have promised to appeal all three convictions. They filed motions yesterday asking for a new trial.

In requesting the maximum sentence, prosecutor Paul Maggiotto told Gray that Smart has shown "absolutely no remorse" since her conviction, and deserved the stiffest possible sentence to send a message that such crimes won't be tolerated.

The sentence came on the eve of the second anniversary of her marriage to Gregg Smart, who was shot to death on May 1, 1990, in the couple's Derry condominium.

Smart showed little or no emotion during her three-week trial, prompting one newspaper to dub her the "Ice Princess."

Smart was convicted of persuading her teenage lover, William Flynn, 15 at the time, and two of his friends, all from Seabrook, to kill her husband. The three teens testified against her in plea bargains, and are awaiting sentencing.

Smart was media coordinator at Winnacunnet High School, where Flynn was a student. He worked on a video project with her and was one of her pupils in a drug- and alcohol-awareness program.

Her father-in-law, William Smart, the first witness at yesterday's hearing, said he and his wife have talked of suicide because their son's murder has devastated them. He called the killing a "senseless, ridiculous, outrageous crime."

"My wife and I have openly talked about suicide," he said. "But we decided that suicide would be the easy way out of this bizarre and ruthless crime."

Smart said that since the murder he has become an overly fearful person.

"Now every day or night when I open the front door to my condo. . . . I stand back on the landing and look in the hallway to assure myself no one is in my hallway waiting with knife and gun," he said.

At the end of his statement, he told his daughter-in-law he hopes she lives a long life in prison and said:

"Pam, I also pray and hope this is the absolute last time I or my family has to look at your face. You're a cold-blooded murderer and a non-caring . . . "

At that point, Pamela Smart rose from her seat and blurted out her protest.

When order was restored, Smart finished his statement.

"You're a cold-blooded murderer, a non-caring, non-loving person who deserves to spend the rest of her life in prison," he said.

When Wojas took the stand, she noted that Maggiotto asked for the maximum sentence to show "this kind of behavior cannot be tolerated."

"The only behavior that you do tolerate, it seems, are deals, and we saw plenty of them, and they were disgusting," Wojas said. She cited plea bargains that resulted in the teenagers agreeing to testify against her daughter.

"Pam maintained her innocence because she is innocent," her mother said.

In the motions for a new trial, one motion cites an anonymous letter from a person who claims to have been excused from jury duty on the Smart trial. The person claims to have overheard a woman, who eventually was picked to serve on the jury, discuss Smart's guilt.

Another motion claims four people have placed a Smart juror in a bar during the evening of the first day of deliberations, and the juror was exposed to numerous conversations about the trial.

"If such a violation of the home sequestration did in fact take place, it would mean that a member of the jury . . . was exposed to impermissible influence, which may have impacted upon the verdict in this case," the motion said.

A hearing on the motions is scheduled May 20.